

# LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **July 12, 2005**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **Work Session**

CLOSED SESSION:  
(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Services to Low-Income Population in City of Lynchburg – Written Report**

RECOMMENDATION: To become more aware of local services available to the low-income population of the City of Lynchburg as requested at the 2004 Council retreat.

SUMMARY: During the City Council retreat in August 2004 the issue of services to low-income population was discussed and identified as a priority and an area that Council requested information for future discussion. The following attachment provides a summary of available services and resources. However, not included are the numerous faith-based organizations that provide similar services and resources.

PRIOR ACTION(S): Council request for additional information during August 2004 retreat.

FISCAL IMPACT:

CONTACT(S): Tamara Rosser 455-5794

ATTACHMENT(S): Summary of services and resources for the low-income population.

REVIEWED BY:



## THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

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HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATION

**TO:** City Council  
L. Kimball Payne, City Manager  
Bonnie Svrcek, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Tamara Rosser, Manager, Planning and Evaluation  
Department of Juvenile Services

**DATE:** July 12, 2005

In May 2004 the City of Lynchburg participated in the National Citizen Survey. Surveys were mailed to 1,200 households and 431 or 39% completed surveys were returned. One section of the survey sought feedback on the "Quality of Services to Special Populations and Other Services" in six different areas. One of those areas was services to the City's low-income population – 8% of the respondents rated the services excellent; 31% good; 33% fair and 27% poor.

During the City Council retreat in August 2004 the issue of services to low-income population was discussed and identified as a priority and an area that Council would like more information for future discussion.

In the City of Lynchburg, a family of four whose gross income is less than \$714 per month would place them below the poverty level and qualify them for government-sponsored public assistance.

The following report provides demographic information on the low income population in the City of Lynchburg. Also provided is a summary of services and resources that are available to the low income population. Included are non-profit and governmental agencies. However, despite best efforts, Council should be aware that this list is not all inclusive and does not include the numerous faith-based organizations that are providing food banks, clothing closets and other resources throughout the City.

Should you have any questions regarding this information please call me at 455-5794.

Thank-you.

Attachment

Patrick Haley, Director of Juvenile Services

**Services to the Low-Income Population  
in the  
City of Lynchburg**

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**Demographic Information**

- According to the 2000 Census the population for the City of Lynchburg is 65,209. This same data indicates that there are 25,143 households in the City.
- The median income is \$32,234.
- A family of four that has an annual income of less than \$22,030 falls below the poverty level.
- 15.9% of the population lives below the poverty level and 8.3% earn less than \$10,000 annually.
- 1,949 or 12.4% of Lynchburg families live below the poverty level.
- 1,562 or 22.1% of families with related children under the age of 18 live below the poverty level.
- 9,363 individual citizens in the City of Lynchburg live below the poverty level.
- 1,026 or 9.6% of individuals over the age of 65 live below the poverty level.
- In 2004 the unemployment rate for Lynchburg was 5.8%
- In January 2005 there were 217 reported homeless individuals in Lynchburg – 104 men, 72 women and 41 children. This is a 14% decrease from 2004 (253).
- Lynchburg City Schools reported 42 children without permanent addresses in 2004.

**RESOURCES/SERVICES**

- **Housing**

Governmental:

- Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority – provides low rent public housing;

Non-Profit:

- Miriam's House – transitional housing for homeless women and children;
- Salvation Army – transitional housing for homeless families;
- Hand's Up Lodge – emergency residential shelter for homeless families;
- Shelter Care Plus
- Rush Homes – housing and support services for the homeless with disabilities;
- Hope House – 30 day transitional living for homeless women and children;
- Family Living Center – transitional housing for homeless families;
- Habitat for Humanity – homeowner for low-income individuals;
- Jericho House – transitional housing for up to 90 days; small rental fee;

- Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation – provides safe, decent, affordable housing for low-income individuals and families;
  - Day Shelter at the Lynchburg Daily Bread – staffed day shelter for homeless individuals.
- **Housing Repairs**
    - Lynchburg Rebuilding Together – home repairs for elderly, disabled and low income;
    - Home Repairs through Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging – home repairs for the elderly for safety reasons;
    - Housing Rehabilitation Program – low interest loans to assist low income homeowners secure materials and labor for home repairs;
    - Housing Services – emergency home repairs;
    - United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development – housing for low-income individuals and families; assistance with utilities;
    - Indoors Plumbing and Weatherization (through Lynchburg Community Action Group) – assistance with home insulation and other energy conservation services for low income individuals and families.
- **Health/Medical**
    - Free Clinic of Central VA – provides general health care to low income and those individuals with no health insurance; dental services are also provided; prescription medications are available for \$2 fee;
    - Johnson Health Clinic – provides quality, affordable health care for the entire community; transportation is available;
    - Lynchburg Health Department – provides care for low income individuals with chronic illnesses, acute care for sick children birth to age 18, well child clinic, family planning, immunizations and preventive care;
    - Jubilee Family Development Center – free health screens for the community;
    - Prescription Assistance (through CVAAA) – provides discounted/no cost prescription medications to low-income, isolated elderly population;
    -
- **Financial**
    - Family Loan Program (through the Alliance for Families and Children) – provides small loans to those in need to purchase or repair vehicles, pay unexpected medical bills or purchase uniforms or tools needed on the job;
    - Interfaith Outreach Association – provides assistance to individuals facing eviction or utility cut-off, food, clothing and other basic necessities;
    - Salvation Army – provides rental and utilities assistance, food, clothing and medicine in extreme circumstances;
    - Emergency Assistance & Crisis Intervention – mortgage or rental assistance to prevent eviction. Relocation support, utility and fuel voucher payments.

- LynCAG – prevention of housing displacement through rental, mortgage and security deposit assistance.
- Lync – IDA (Individual Development Account) – helps low-income people save to either purchase a home, attend college or start a small business. For every dollar saved by the participant, two dollars in match money are added.
- **Food**
  - Daily Bread – daily soup kitchen for the community;
  - Lynchburg Area Food Bank – food for those in need in the community;
  - Interfaith Outreach Association – food for the needy;
  - LynCAG Food Pantry – emergency food for low-income population.
  - Numerous faith-based organizations and churches provide food pantries across the City.
- **Furniture/Appliances**
  - Lynchburg Furniture and Furnishings (through Interfaith Outreach Association) – provides no cost stable furniture and appliances to low-income individuals and families and victims of emergencies;
  - Lynchburg Believers Fellowship – provides furniture, clothes and food to those in need.
- **Transportation**
  - Emergency Transportation Services (through LynCAG) – keeps TANF-eligible clients employed through a transportation crisis by providing car repairs, bus tickets and taxi service on a short-term basis

## **Governmental Resources**

- City of Lynchburg Department of Social Services
  - Food Stamps – program that provides nutritional food to low-income individuals and families ;( in June 2004 there were 3,464 food stamp cases in the City of Lynchburg. In June 2005 that number has increased to 3,762)
  - Medicaid – provides direct payments to health care providers for eligible individuals for needed medical services;( in June 2004 there were 5,761 Medicaid cases, in May 2005 there were 6,179 cases)
  - Family Access to Medical Insurance or FAMIS – provides health insurance for low-income children;
  - Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF ) – provides monthly monetary payments to families with children in need of temporary assistance;( in June 2004 there were 634 cases and in May 2005, 583 cases)
  - Cooling and Heating Assistance - fuel assistance to eligible individuals
  - Employment Services – employment program provided to TANF recipients;

- Child Care – provides direct payments to child care providers for TANF recipient and the working poor (co-payment is required)
- City of Lynchburg Department of Parks and Recreation
  - Scholarships – provide opportunity for low-income citizens to participate in recreational, sporting, arts and crafts and other activities;
  - Kids' Café – provides meals in safe environment.
- Lynchburg Police Department
  - Child/Infant Car Seats – provide child/infant car seats to those in need; works with the United Way to verify eligibility. Child/infant car seats are also provided by the Lynchburg Health Department.
- Commissioner of Revenue
  - Tax relief – assist elderly and disabled in filing for relief of real estate taxes.